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PUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY

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Issued in the interest of corn-borer control conducted by the United States Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the State departments of agriculture and State agricultural colleges in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Michigan, and Indiana.

No. 19

Washington, D.C.

October 1, 1927.

AN HONEST LOOK AT THE SITUATION

The international corn-borer organization, 250 strong, met September 21, 22, and 23 to go over the ground themselves after the smoke of the spring encounter with the corn borer had cleared away and to see the real status of the corn borer - how much damage was being done, how effective present control measures were, and what measures ought to be urged in the future. Farmers, bankers, scientists, business men, and editors representing farm bureaus, granges, agricultural colleges, scientific and trade organizations, and the State and Federal Governments met to go over the problem each from his own angle.

MORE RESEARCH work along all lines connected with the borer and its control was one of the points emphasized at the conference. The report of the joint committee of entomologists, agronomists and agricultural engineers accepted and approved by the conference expressed this need as follows: "The committee recognizes that research is the basis of all progress in methods of control of the corn borer and recommends the fullest program of research along lines offering promise of assistance and the fullest financial support for such a research program".

A CONTINUATION OF PRESENT POLICIES in respect to quarantine, quarantine enforcement, and compulsory clean-up activities by the States affected was recommended. All agencies interested in the welfare of agriculture were urged to give their support and encouragement toward this end.



Committee



Comments on the



Campaign

"The committee wishes to indorse and give its hearty approval of the efforts that have been made to control the corn borer and to commend those engaged in directing the research, regulatory, and extension activities designed for its control. Especial commendation is given to the multitude of farmers who cooperated so splendidly in the clean-up campaign.

"The committee reiterates its opinion that it will be impossible to eradicate the borer or even to prevent its spread to corn-growing areas not yet infested. However, it is believed that the compulsory clean-up of 1927 not only greatly reduced the rate of infestation increase, but has been successful in preventing serious commercial losses, and that the expenditure of large funds for this purpose has been completely justified."

A GLANCE AT THE NEIGHBOR'S FARM



The fall survey in Canada showed that in Essex and Kent Counties, Ontario, which have been used to demonstrate the absolute ruin brought about by the borer, there has been a 50 per cent reduction in the infestation. Eight counties in Ontario were included in the spring clean-up campaign in Canada, conducted along much the same lines as in the United States except that the farmers were not paid for their extra work and only ordinary farm machinery was used.

The cleanest fields of last year will be made the average fields in next year's clean-up campaign, which will include the Great Lakes territory of Canada, reported Prof. Lawson Caesar, provincial entomologist for Ontario.

Scouts in Canada have discovered an infestation in the Cobalt mining area, 350 miles north of the original outbreak at St. Thomas, Ontario, said Prof. L.S. McLaine of the Dominion government at Ottawa.

Infestations have also been found on St. Joseph Island and Manitoulin Island in northern Lake Huron and at several points in Quebec. Nova Scotia has been scouted but no borers found there.

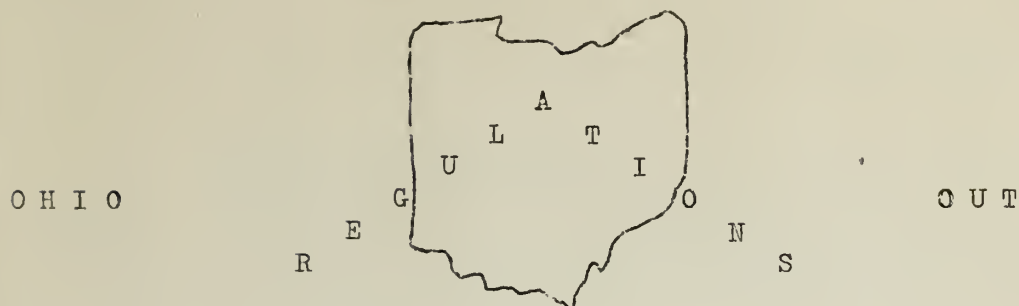
THAT
ESSEX - KENT
RECORD

No clean-up

Clean-up

{	1922 - 3 per cent infestation
	1923 - 30 per cent infestation
	1924 - Total failure in 10 square miles
	1925 - Total failure in 400 square miles
	1926 - Total failure in 1200 square miles
	1927 - 50 per cent reduction

The 50 per cent reduction was probably not entirely due to clean-up but partly to unfavorable borer conditions.



Regulatory measures for the control of the corn borer were issued by the Ohio State Department of Agriculture, September 15. These regulations cover areas under three sets of conditions. First, those counties included in the 1 per cent or more infestation area where all corn crop parts or remnants must be burned or destroyed before May 1, exempting only ~~olean~~ fields where the stubble is fast and not more than 2 inches in height, stored ear corn, or corn made into ensilage, shredded, plowed under, or trampled into and covered with manure.

The second class includes Williams, Defiance, Paulding, and Henry Counties and exempts stubble cut 4 inches in height when sown to small grain, also corn cobs or pieces of cobs wherever found.

In the third class of less than 1 per cent infestation, corn stubble 6 inches in height when sown to small grain is exempted and also cobs or pieces of cob.

INSIDE DOPE

When wondering why the extra-labor check didn't come,
Did you ever think?

Just what a job writing those 180,000 checks that went out to the farmer really was?

A good clerk, barring accidents, can write 400 checks a day, 'tis said. This same talented, conscientious clerk can write 10,000 checks a month. Etc.

However,

The department employed 12 of these clerks and worked them in two shifts. This was to make best use of the 4 new check-writing machines purchased for the occasion.

But writing checks was not all by a jugfull.

There were the vouchers to be made out and signed

ABSTRACTED

listed and bookkept,

audited and checked over.

The accounts also had to be audited by the General Accounting Office, which audits all Government accounts.

Then there was the little matter of putting them in envelopes and sending them out. Remember, 180,000.


No, Rome was not built in a day.

It was some job,


but the work is now up to date,

and checks have been mailed to all farmers whose vouchers have been received.


FALL EDUCATIONAL WORK UNDER WAY

LOW-CUTTING DEMONSTRATIONS


Low-cutting demonstrations are now under way in each of the campaign States. Michigan reports a schedule of 26 covering the infested counties, and Indiana has arranged for 15. Ohio is planning to carry on these demonstrations in each of the newly infested counties.

TOURS

Every county agent in Michigan has planned at least one tour to the badly infested fields that the farmers and others interested may see for themselves just what the borer is capable of doing. In Ohio, under the direction of T.H. Parks, extension entomologist, parties are being conducted to a badly infested field near Port Clinton. Several district tours from Indiana to the badly infested fields of Essex and Kent Counties, Ontario, have been planned for about October 1st.

PLOWING

Plowing demonstrations are being conducted by extension workers in Pennsylvania and Michigan. Ohio is using these demonstrations whenever requested by the county corn-borer committee, and Indiana is planning to conduct them in the newly infested areas next spring. A series of plowing contests to arouse interest in good plowing for corn-borer control is also being sponsored by the extension service in Michigan.

INFORMATION SERVICE

The cut service so popular last spring will be resumed early in October. The service will be further localized by having the selection of the pictures and the making up of the legends done in the field. The subjects which are being covered in these pictures are fall plowing, low cutting, silo filling, shredding fodder and feeding corn fodder. The distribution will be taken care of from Washington. In this service, mats or stereotypes are furnished to all papers, dailies, and weeklies in the corn-borer area which are equipped to use them. Several new lantern-slide series based on the voluntary clean-up work done last spring are being prepared and will be available for use in the field soon. Posters, cards, stickers, and circulars will be prepared and distributed by the individual State extension divisions according to local needs.



EXHIBITS

The State extension divisions in each State have prepared special corn-borer exhibits for use at their State and county fairs which have been unusually effective and have aroused much interest. At the New York State Fair, the exhibit was put on by the rural-engineering department and included implements for plowing and low cutting which attracted a great deal of attention. At the Michigan State Fair, the college of agriculture had an excellent exhibit embodying ideas of the different departments of the college which drew huge crowds, according to reports received.

In addition to this, the department through the Office of Exhibits prepared an exhibit which has been used effectively at fairs and will be shown during the winter at corn-borer meetings and the larger farmers' institutes.

CORN BORER OFFICIAL

BACK TO THE FIELD CONFERENCE

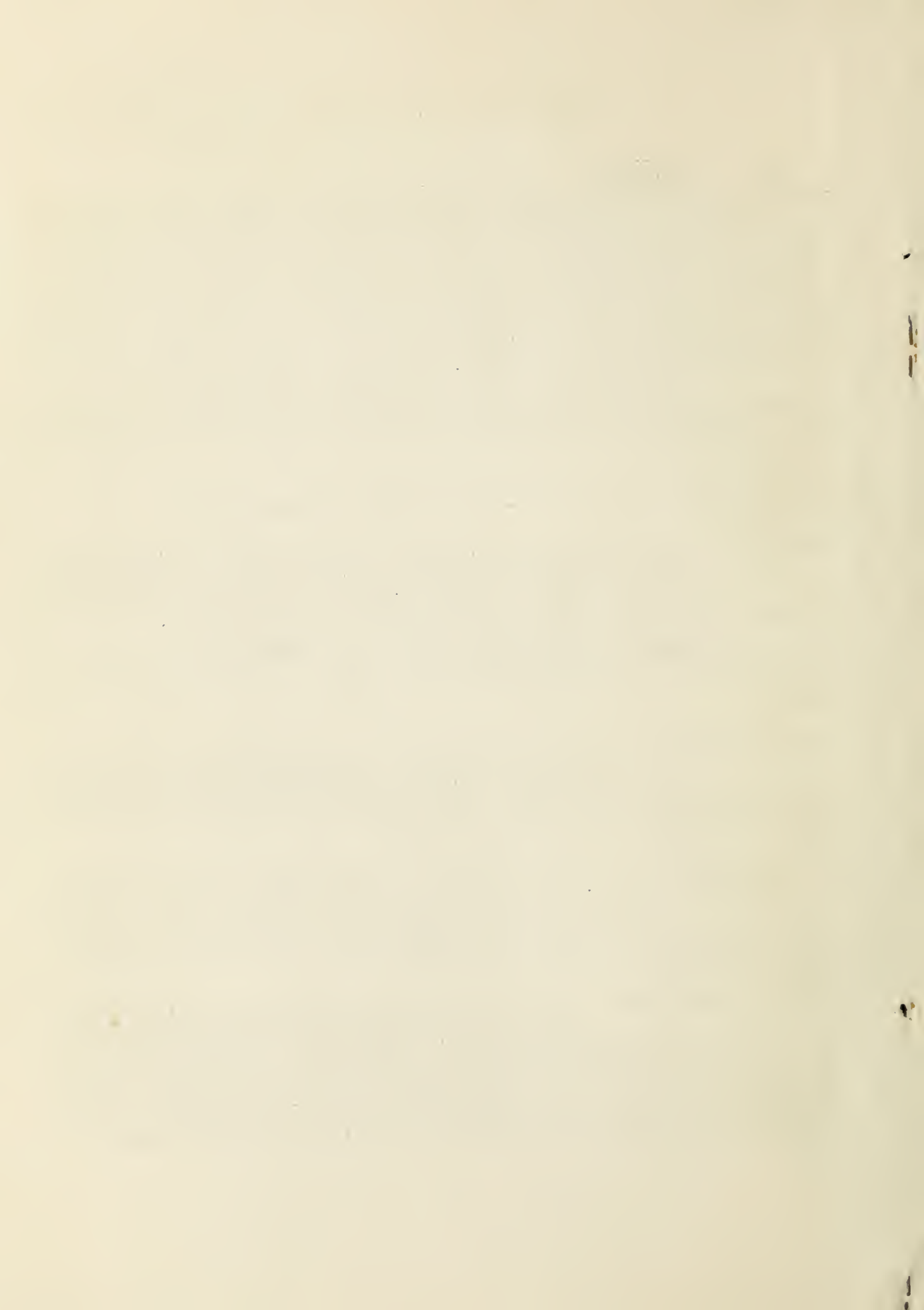
MACHINERY Recent developments in control machinery were reviewed by C.O. Reed. He said the machine work fell into three classes: New attachments for or better adaptation of present machines, new machines for present needs, and new machines for future needs.

Low-cutting attachments for three standard makes of corn harvesters were demonstrated by Mr. Reed, also a satisfactory ensilage cutter. Each of these machines cut the stubble 2 inches or less from the ground.

THE WORST FIELD Just what devastation borers can produce in a field was brought home to those attending the conference when they examined a field in Essex County, Ontario, that had an average borer population of 33 borers per stalk. Many stalks were cut open and revealed as many as 60 or 80 borers in a single stalk.

OTHER STOPS EN ROUTE The experimental plots at Bono, Ohio, and Monroe, Mich., proved very interesting to the visitors and also the work of the corn-borer laboratories at Monroe, Mich., and Chatham, Ontario. The parasite-breeding work at the latter two places attracted the attention of the visitors.

WHERE THE MONEY GOES Doctor Woods gave the conference a brief summary of how the \$10,000,000 appropriated by Congress to carry on the corn-borer campaign is being spent. In round numbers it is this way: \$3,000,000 for equipment and machinery including gas and oil, \$250,000 for extension and education work, \$1,250,00 for general expenses, including office equipment and salaries, \$4,200,000 for payment of extra-labor fees to farmers, \$1,300,000 for work this fall and next spring.



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"DISCOVERIES"

SCOUTING

for borers in new territory is still going ahead under the direction of L.H.Worthley. To date, 472 scouts engaged in this work have found slight infestation in 396 new townships and no trace of the borer in 266 townships. The following townships have been added since the last published list.

MICHIGAN

Alpena County: Alpena, Green, Long Rapids, Maple Ridge, Ossineke, Sanborn, Wilson.
Arenac County: Mason, Turner.
Barry County: Barry, Irving, Johnstown, Rutland, Thornapple.
Eaton County: Walton.
Ingham County: Delhi.
Iosco County: Burleigh, Oscoda, Reno, Tawas, Wilber.
Kalamazoo County: Cooper, Kalamazoo.
Midland County: Larkin.
St. Joseph County: Sherman, Sturgis, White Pigeon.

OHIO

Allen County: Ottawa.
Auglaize County: Washington.
Champaign County: Union.
Coshocton County: Crawford, Lafayette, Mill Creek, Tuscarawas.
Delaware County: Berlin, Orange.
Franklin County: Franklin, Pleasant.
Licking County: Union.
Madison County: Deer Creek, Pike, Range.
Tuscarawas County: York.
Union County: Jackson.
Van Wert County: Liberty.

INDIANA

Adams County: Union.
Elkhart County: Elkhart.
Huntington County: Union, Warren.
Jay County: Madison.
Randolph County: Jackson.
Wabash County: Pleasant.

PENNSYLVANIA

Huntingdon County: Barree.
Luzerne County: Franklin
Wyoming County: Braintrim, Exeter, North Branch, Northmoreland.

MICHIGAN BULLETIN The Michigan Extension Service has just issued a leaflet giving information for farming under corn-borer conditions. It is called "Methods of Control for the European Corn Borer," by H.C. Rother, Extension Bulletin No. 59.

